

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 066816
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05
IGA-02 AGRE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EUR-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /080 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX:JES

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DKUX

-----252229Z 113193 /46

O R 252051Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS STATE 066816

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 23

- -

FOLLOWING IS SOUTH ASIA PORTION OF MARCH 23 DEPARTMENT
PRESS BRIEFING:

SPOKESMAN: I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER A STATEMENT REGARDING
THE SECRETARY'S MEETING THIS MORNING WITH INDIAN AMBASSADOR
SINGH. AMBASSADOR SINGH CALLED ON SECRETARY VANCE PRIOR
TO RETURNING TO NEW DELHI FOR CONSULTATIONS. THEY REVIEWED
A RANGE OF CURRENT BILATERAL ISSUES BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES. THEY AGREED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES ARE VERY GOOD AND PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER IMPROVE-
MENT ARE EXCELLENT.

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THE SECRETARY ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY OUR BEST WISHES
TO THE NEW INDIAN PRIME MINISTER AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT.
THE SECRETARY ALSO REITERATED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS
BEEN DEEPLY IMPRESSED WITH THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL PROCESS
IN INDIA AND THE SMOOTH AND PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER.

Q: ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT "EXCELLENTER" NOW THAN THEY WERE BEFORE THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT?

A: HENRY, I HAVE JUST SAID THE PROSPECTS ARE EXCELLENT, AND I AM NOT GOING TO COMPARE IT TO PREVIOUS PROSPECTS OR FUTURE PROSPECTS. I THINK IT IS QUITE CLEAR WHAT WE ARE SAYING.

Q: FRED, ISN'T THIS STATEMENT COMING AWFULLY CLOSE TO COMMENTING ON THE INTERNAL WORKINGS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, WHICH YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO RELUCTANT TO DO?

TO PUT IT IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION: WHAT PROMPTS THIS EXTRAORDINARY SALUTE TO THE INDIAN ELECTORAL PROCESS?

A: FIRST OF ALL, I DON'T THINK IT IS EXTRAORDINARY.

Q: UNUSUAL, AT LEAST.

A: NO. I THINK --

Q: A "SMOOTH TRANSFER OF POWER?" "DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS?"

DO YOU HAVE PEOPLE ON THE SCENE?

A: I THINK IT WAS YESTERDAY, OR THE DAY BEFORE WHEN I SAID THAT WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AT WORK THERE. I DON'T THINK THIS REPRESENTS THE EXTRAORDINARY EXPRESSION THAT YOU ARE MAKING IT OUT TO BE.

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Q: WELL ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE RESULTS? YOU SEEM TO BE.

A: IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF THE RESULTS. IT IS A QUESTION OF A SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, AS I HAVE SAID.

Q: DO YOU MEAN THE BALLOT BOXES WORK, OR THE RESULTS ARE--

A: IT IS JUST WHAT I HAVE DESCRIBED, AND I THINK THAT IT MAKES VERY GOOD SENSE THE WAY WE HAVE PUT IT.

Q: WELL MAYBE I CAN TAKE A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH AND ASK YOU IF YOU EXPECT A NEW AID PROGRAM WITH INDIA -- IF YOU EXPECT INDIA TO BE MORE NON-ALIGNED AND LESS PRO-SOVIET IN THEIR FOREIGN POLICY --

A: I AM NOT SAYING THAT AT ALL, NOR TRYING TO IMPLY THAT.

Q: BUT THEN YOU SAID --

A: IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF EXPECTATIONS. MR. DUBS, THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN NEA, CONCERNED WITH INDIA,

YESTERDAY TESTIFIED ON THE SUBJECT OF AID TO INDIA; IN ADDRESSING THAT QUESTION HE SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER ANY PROPOSALS FOR THE REESTABLISHMENT OF A BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. HE DIDN'T GO BEYOND THAT, AND I AM CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND THAT TODAY.

Q: WELL, IS THE UNITED STATES IN FACT CONSIDERING THE IDEA OF RESUMING A BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

A: I JUST SAID, DON, THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER ANY PROPOSALS. AND BY "CONSIDER" WE MEAN:
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LOOK AT, EXAMINE AND DISCUSS SUCH PROGRAMS. OBVIOUSLY THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA BEFORE ANY DECISION WOULD BE MADE.

Q: IS THERE ANY MONEY SET ASIDE FOR FY'78 IF SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED?

A: ON NEW PROGRAM? I JUST SAID THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER A DISCUSSION OF THESE.

Q: YES, BUT WHAT IS THE --

A: WE ALREADY HAVE SCHEDULED ABOUT 150 MILLION DOLS IN FOOD SALES UNDER PUBLIC LAW 480.

Q: YES, BUT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN --

A: BEYOND THAT, WE HAVE RECEIVED NO FORMAL REQUESTS.

Q: YOU ARE SUGGESTING IT'S UP TO INDIA TO MAKE A REQUEST TO BE CONSIDERED A PROPOSAL?

A: WELL, WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY FORMAL REQUEST TO DATE -- BUT THAT IS THE WAY THESE THINGS DEVELOP, IT IS A CONSULTATION AS TO WHAT NEEDS EXIST, AND HOW THOSE NEEDS COULD BE ADDRESSED.

Q: WAS MR. VANCE LEFT WITH ANY IMPRESSION THAT THE NEW INDIAN GOVERNMENT NOW WOULD ADDRESS THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING A FORMAL REQUEST?

A: AT THIS MEETING, BILATERAL AID WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

Q: FRED, WHEN DID THE DEPARTMENT REACH THE CONCLUSION
THAT FURTHER IMPROVEMENT PROSPECTS ARE EXCELLENT? AT WHAT
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TIME?

A: AT WHAT TIME IN THE MORNING, YESTERDAY, OR YESTERDAY
AFTERNOON, OR WHAT? (LAUGHTER)

Q: NO. AFTER THE ELECTION -- BEFORE THE ELECTION -- LAST
WEEK -- LAST MONTH.

A: I HAVE JUST GIVEN YOU THE CONTEXT OF THE STATEMENT, OR
THIS EXPRESSION OF OUR FEELINGS ON THE MATTER JUAN, AND I
THINK IT IS QUITE CLEAR WHAT THE CONTEXT IS.

Q: FRED --

A: YES.

Q: DURING THE INDIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN JUST PAST, MR.
MORARJI DECIDED HE WAS NOT A PRIME MINISTER -- SAID IF IT
WAS UP TO HIM ALONE, HE WOULD MODIFY THE INDO-SOVIET FRIEND-
SHIP TREATY OF AUGUST, 1970.

DID THAT FRIENDSHIP TREATY COME UP IN THE DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN MR. VANCE AND MR. SINGH?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: FRED, DO YOU HAVE A FEELING THAT THE NEW INDIAN GOVERN-
MENT WILL HAVE A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FOREIGN POLICY THAN THE
PAST? ALTHOUGH FOREIGN POLICY WASN'T REALLY AN ISSUE IN
THE INDIAN CAMPAIGN. ON EITHER SIDE. IT WAS DOMESTIC
ISSUES THAT DECIDED THE OVERTURN OF THE GOVERNMENT.

BUT NEVERTHELESS, SINCE THE NEW PRIME MINISTER WORKED WITH
MAHATMA GHANDI, AND WAS IN THE NEHRU GOVERNMENT FOR THIR-
TEEN YEARS -- HE WAS IN THE GANDHI GOVERNMENT -- WITH THE
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WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN TERMS OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY?
HOW DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT ASSESS THIS?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY ASSESSMENT OF THAT FOR YOU, JOE.

OBVIOUSLY, INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY IS UP TO THE INDIANS TO
DECIDE BUT I CAN'T GIVE YOU --

Q: OH, YES -- I AM NOT QUESTIONING YOU ON THAT --

A: -- ANY POINT OF VIEW ON THAT FROM HERE.

Q: I WASN'T QUESTIONING THE FACT THAT THE INDIAN GOVERN-
MENT WILL DECIDE ITS OWN FOREIGN POLICY. BUT I MEAN: WHAT

IS THE OUTLOOK HERE?

CAN YOU TELL US ON BACKGROUND?

A: I CAN'T -- I CANNOT GIVE YOU ANYTHING EITHER ON BACK-
GROUND OR STRAIGHT OUT. SORRY, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON
THAT.

Q: WELL WHAT IS --

Q: DID YOU SEE HIS COMMENTS, HIS PRESS CONFERENCE COMMENTS
AFTER TAKING OFFICE -- MR. DESAI --

A: I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM. NO.

Q: OH, BECAUSE IF YOU HAD, I MIGHT ASK YOU IF YOU HAD
ANY COMMENTS.

A: NO, I DON'T.

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Q: I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

A: HE IS ASKING ME ABOUT MR. DESAI'S PRESS CONFERENCE
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PAGE 01 STATE 066816
ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: NEA/PAB:PWLANDE

APPROVED BY: NEA/PAB:PWLANDE

-----290538Z 018127 /11

R 252051Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS STATE 066816

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECSTATE 066816 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO
BOMBAY CALCUTTA MADRAS 25 MAR 77

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 066816

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VANCE

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE066816
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DKUX:JES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770103-0569
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770320/aaaaarkj.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2229d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2993104
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 23 - -- FOLLOWING IS SOUTH ASIA PORTION OF MARCH 23 DE
TAGS: PFOR, IN, XD
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2229d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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